

32. AN UNUSUAL SPECIMEN OF *TURBINELLA PYRUM* (LINN. 1758) (With a text-figure)



Fig. 1. Unusual specimen of *Turbinella pyrimum* with axial sculpturing.

The Indian chank *Turbinella pyrimum* is common on the east coast of India. This species was also recorded earlier from Bombay seas, but has now become rare. Normally the shell is very large, thick and heavy. Inner lip bears three strong folds on the inner margin. Siphonal canal is long and open. Axial sculpturing is completely absent. Young specimens are white with orange spots on the surface; these spots disappear in adult specimens. In the specimen collected, axial sculpturing is very prominent (Fig. 1). This pattern is unusual in *T. pyrimum* (L.). The regular pattern of axial sculpturing (varices) is probably a scar created on the mantle edge by an unsuccessful predator.

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DEEPAK APTE

33. FOOD OF THE COMMON MADRAS SNAIL *CRYPTOZONA BISTRIALIS* FROM PT. CALIMERE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The common Madras snail *Cryptozona bistrialis* was frequently noticed during the monsoon on the forest floor at the Pt. Calimere Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu. During December 1989, I happened to see this animal devouring vegetable matter from the forest floor. The observed diet included fallen fruits, leaves and parts of grasses and sedges which are listed in Table 1.

It was observed that the short-nosed fruit bat *Cynopterus sphinx* at Pt. Calimere drops chewed remains of fruits and leaves of *Cassia fistula* under their feeding roosts (Balasubramanian, P. 1988, *JBNHS* 85 : 183). Such chewed items were also devoured by the snail.

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TABLE 1
FOOD ITEMS OF COMMON MADRAS SNAIL AT PT. CALIMERE

Species	Family	Part Eaten
<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Caesalpiaceae	Leaves (dropped by bats)
<i>Canthium parviflorum</i>	Rubiaceae	Fruits (dropped by bats)
<i>Coccinia grandis</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Fallen fruits (pulp)
<i>Trichosanthes tricuspidata</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Fallen fruits (pulp)
<i>Salacia chilensis</i>	Celastraceae	Fallen fruits (pulp)
<i>Prosopis chilensis</i>	Mimosaceae	Fallen pods (pulp)
<i>Spermacoce hispida</i>	Rubiaceae	Leaves
<i>Zornia diphylla</i>	Papilionaceae	Leaves
<i>Bulbostylis barbata</i>	Cyperaceae	Flowers
<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	Gramineae	Leaves
<i>Eragrostis viscosa</i>	Gramineae	Leaves